

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-18 have been cancelled, and claims 19-30 have been added. Thus, claims 19-30 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to make grammatical and idiomatic improvements in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In items 5-7 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is believed moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-18. Furthermore, new claims 19-30 have been carefully drafted to avoid the problems noted by the Examiner and to otherwise clearly comport with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In items 8 and 9 on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zimmer (U.S. 5,437,207). This rejection is also believed moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-18. Furthermore, this rejection is clearly inapplicable to the new claims 19-30, for the following reasons.

With exemplary reference to the present drawing figures, new independent claim 19 sets forth a manipulator-type robot arrangement for connection to at least one of first external device signal lines 7a of a first external device 100 and second external device signal lines 7b of a second external device 200, comprising: a manipulator 1 including a manipulator connection case 3; an internal cable 8 routed through an inside of the manipulator 1, the internal cable 8 including a plurality of signal lines; inside connectors 62 provided in the connection case 3, each of the inside connectors 62 being connected, directly or indirectly, to one of the plurality of signal lines of the internal cable 8; first outside connectors 61a provided in the connection case 3 and

being configured to be connected, directly or indirectly, to the first external device signal lines 7a of the first external device 100; and second outside connectors 61b provided in the connection case 3 and being configured to be connected, directly or indirectly, to the second external device signal lines 7b of the second external device 200; wherein the inside connectors 62, the first outside connectors 61a, and the second outside connectors 61b are configured to enable a selective connection between at least part of the inside connectors 62, at least part of the first outside connectors 61a, and at least part of the second outside connectors 61b so as to enable selection of different connection routes between the inside connectors 62, the first outside connectors 61a, and the second outside connectors 61b.

Thus, as shown, for example, in present Fig. 4 and described at page 7, line 27 - page 8, line 18 of the original specification, the present invention of claim 19 is such that the inside connector 62 can be selectively connected to the first outside connector 61a or the second outside connector 61b. Further, as illustrated in Fig. 6 and described at page 10, line 18 - page 11, line 6 of the original specification, the invention of claim 19 is such that the first outside connector 61a can be connected to the second outside connector 61b.

In contrast to the present invention of claim 19, the Zimmer patent (U.S. 5,437,207) is merely directed to a multi-axial manipulator with an improved line routing that is better integrated and permits a higher degree of mobility. In other words, the purpose of the Zimmer invention is to provide a manipulator with better mobility.

The manipulator illustrated in Fig. 2 of Zimmer includes two wire bundles 12, 13 routed through the manipulator interior, and each of these wire bundles 12 (and 13) has a separate external connection 11 (and 15) for external connection. The first wire bundle 12, for connection to tools, and the second wire bundle 13, for connection to manipulator drives, are separated from one another in an advantageous configuration to allow for improved mobility of the manipulator. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the Zimmer patent of the particular configuration as recited in claim 19.

That is, claim 19 specifies that, within the connection case of the manipulator, are provided an inside connector connected to one of the plurality signal lines of the internal cable,

first outside connectors configured to be connected to the first external device via first external device signal lines, and second outside connectors configured to be connected to the second external device via second external device signal lines. The inside connectors, the first outside connectors, and the second outside connectors of present claim 19 are required to be configured to enable a selective connection between at least part of the inside connectors, at least part of the first outside connectors, and at least part of the second outside connectors. This selective connectability allows for the selection of different connection routes between the inside connectors, the first outside connectors and the second outside connectors, within the connection case. These features of the present invention are in no way disclosed or suggested in the Zimmer patent.

Thus, because of the clear distinctions between the present invention of independent claim 19 and the Zimmer patent, it is believed apparent that claim 19 is not anticipated by the Zimmer patent. Further, it is submitted that a person having ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious to modify the Zimmer patent in such a manner as to result in or otherwise render obvious the present invention of claim 19. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19, as well as claims 20-30 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the dependent claims 20-30 which set forth additional features of the present invention and further define the invention over the prior art. For example, claim 20 specifies the further inclusion of a first internal connector 44a provided in the connection case 3 and connected, directly or indirectly, to the first outside connectors 61a, the first internal connector 44a being arranged for connection to a first external connector 7a connected to the first external device 100. Claim 21 specifies the further inclusion of a second internal connector 44b provided in the connection case 3 and connected, directly or indirectly, to the second outside connectors 61b, the second internal connector 44b being arranged for connection to a second external connector 4b connected to the second external device 200.

Claims 22 and 23 are somewhat similar to claims 20 and 21 but further positively recite the presence of the first and second external connectors 4a, 4b. Claims 24 and 27 are somewhat

similar to claims 22 and 23, but further specify the inclusion of the first and second external devices 100, 200.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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